

# SWI VAMPIRELLA

#1



WARREN ELLIS • KEVIN LAU

\$2.95 US • \$4.00 CANADA

HotComic.net

# Crusade Entertainment, Ltd.

William Tucci  
President

Tony Bedard  
Senior Editor

Jeff Zapata  
Associate Editor

Juan Pineda  
Studio Manager

Joseph Biondi  
Distribution

Marie Tucci  
Administration and Trade Shows

Regina Paolillo  
Crusade Collectables

Marianne Montagna,  
the Patrick Agency  
Publicity

## Harris Comics

Stanley Harris  
Publisher

Dennis S. Page  
Executive Publisher

Jonathan Rheingold  
Associate Publisher/  
Advertising

Yoshi Aino  
Direct Sales &  
Promotions Manager

David Bogart  
Editorial Director

Lin Long  
Managing Editor

Mark Mazz  
Creative Director

Roy Mosny  
Production Director

Phil Olsen  
Director of Pre-Press

Seth Biederman  
Retail Promotions

Dave Haddock  
Submissions Editor

"Once upon a time it was rumored that there was a ghost in the city, and people were very scared and worried about it... 'There is a ghost in Rashoomon! Don't go near it or you will be eaten up!'"

Ana Ishikawa is a renegade sohei—a warrior monk possessing incredible martial arts skill. She fights her battles in crimson garb and white face paint, when she is known as Shi, meaning "death" in Japanese. Unlike her sohei brethren, Ana also possesses a deep Christian faith that has sustained her through more heartbreak and bloodshed than any one life should contain. Ana has seen true evil before, but it has always been of the human variety...



ANA ISHIKAWA  
"SHI"

Vampirella is a vampire, heir to a legacy of death and un-death that stretches back to the dawn of the human race. Now, she hunts the globe, exterminating others of her own kind on a grim quest to rid the world of the evil and suffering vampires bring. She has met many mortals in her years on this earth, but few have ever proved as formidable as a certain quiet and beautiful Japanese-American girl living in New York...



VAMPIRELLA

Peter DeNyse is a former NYPD Detective who was run out of the force after being framed for a crime. Undaunted, Pete carries on his mission of justice by protecting the poor and down-trodden—the city's outcasts. The word is out on the street that this ex-cop is the one to go to when no one else can help. Pete's thrown himself into some major conflicts before, but he's never been caught between two primal forces in quite this way...



PETE DENYSE

"ONCE UPON A TIME, IT WAS RUMORED THAT THERE WAS A GHOST IN THE CITY, AND PEOPLE WERE VERY SCARED AND WORRIED ABOUT IT...." THERE IS A GHOST IN RASHOMON! DON'T GO NEAR IT OR YOU WILL BE EATEN UP!"

I STILL HAVE A FEW FRIENDS IN THE POLICE. ONE OF THEM GAVE ME THIS AND A BAD XEROX OF THE FILE.

A WOMAN WHO'S KILLING THE DOWNTOWN CRIMINAL ELEMENT ONE BY ONE, DRINKING THEIR BLOOD, AND VANISHING LIKE A GHOST...

I KEEP THINKING I SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, BUT...

... WHAT DO YOU THINK, ANA?

A HANNYA IN NEW YORK?

I DON'T THINK SO, PETER.

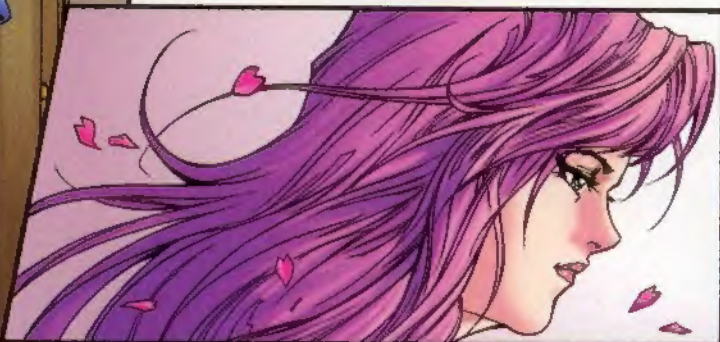




"ONCE UPON  
A TIME, IT WAS  
RUMORED THAT THERE  
WAS A GHOST IN  
THE CITY..."



THE CHILDREN'S  
STORY OF RASHOMON.  
HA.




"ON A QUIET AND RAINY NIGHT,  
THE WARRIOR WATANABETSUNA  
STRADDLED HIS HORSE AND  
WENT ALONE TO RASHOMON..."

# IN RASHOMON



WRITTEN BY WARREN ELLIS  
ILLUSTRATED BY KEVIN LAU  
& COLORED BY ANSON LAM

WITH HO TZE GUNG, JOE SPERRAC,  
ANDREW WEADEL, PHYLLIS HOVIN, STEVE ELLIS,  
JASON DAFALAS, ATOMIC PAINTBRUSH,  
ELL-B-GRAFFICS, COLONYE GRAPH, IBE KRWK,  
GRAPHIC PLANET & MADA DESIGN  
LETTERED BY ANTONIO TERRAZZA  
DESIGN BY MADA DESIGN  
EDITED BY TONY SEDARD  
SRI CREATED BY WILLIAM YUCCI




ANA ISHIKAWA REMEMBERS THE STORY OF RASHOMON WELL FROM HER INFANT YEARS.


A STRANGE JAPANESE CHILDHOOD OF INSTILLED CHRISTIAN VALUES AND CREEPING GODLESS FOLK TALES.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S DOING HERE. SOMETHING PUT A MATCH TO THE OLD BOXED TINDER OF HER HERITAGE.


VAMPIRES; HER FAMILY ONCE TOOK IN AN OLD EUROPEAN WHITE MAN WHO TALKED ABOUT VAMPIRES.




HE TOLD YOUNG ANA, VERY SERIOUSLY, THAT ONLY THE GOOD CHRISTIAN CROSS COULD BRING SUCH A MONSTER DOWN.




THE VERY NEXT DAY, SHE TOLD AN ELDERLY NEIGHBOR ABOUT THIS.



SHE LAUGHED A TERRIBLE OLD LAUGH, THE NEIGHBOR, AND TOLD YOUNG ANA THAT THE HANNYA COULD BE STOPPED ONLY BY COVERING ITS GRAVE WITH RICE.

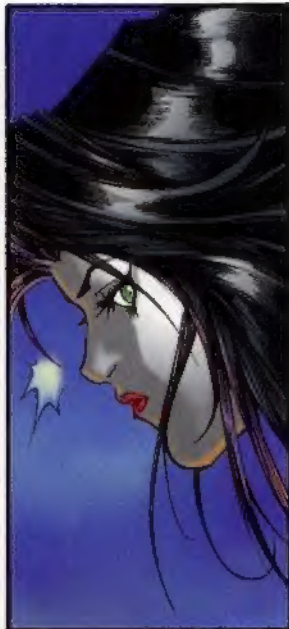


ANA ISHIKAWA IS A MODERN WOMAN. SHE KNOWS THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS VAMPIRES.



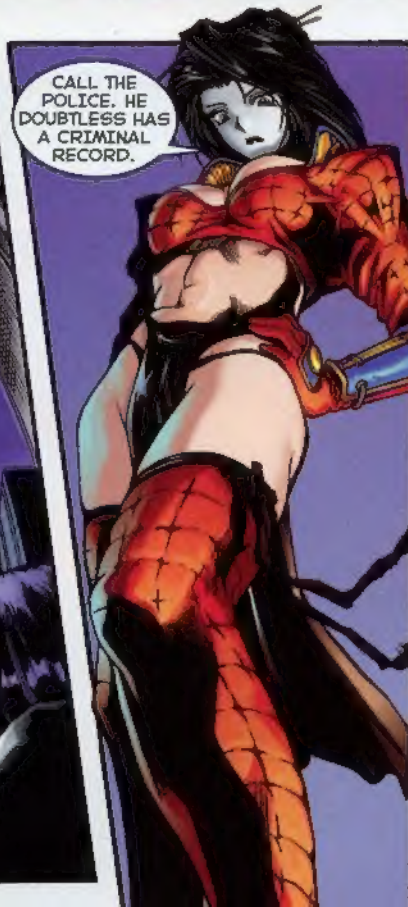
IT'S HER CHILDHOOD THAT HAS HER OUT OVER THE STREETS OF NEW YORK TONIGHT.

ANA DECIDES, WITH SUDDEN DISGUST, THAT IT'S PAST HER INNER CHILD'S BEDTIME.

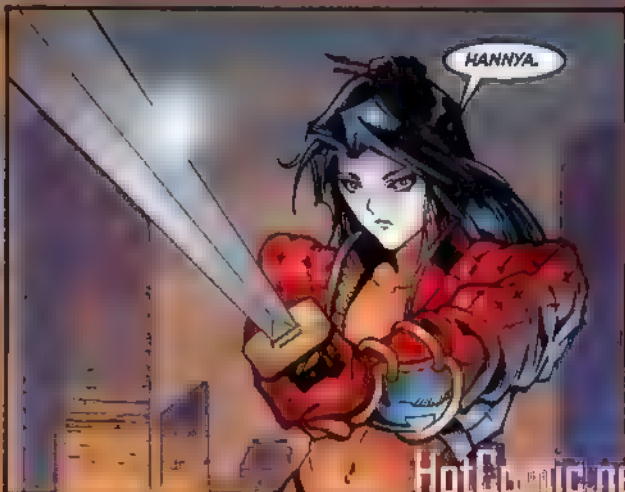
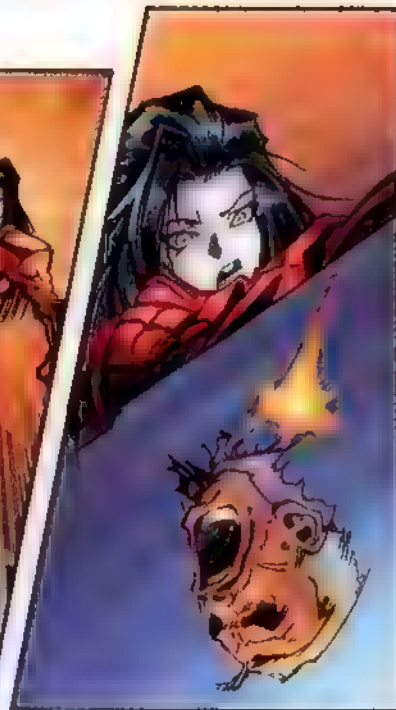
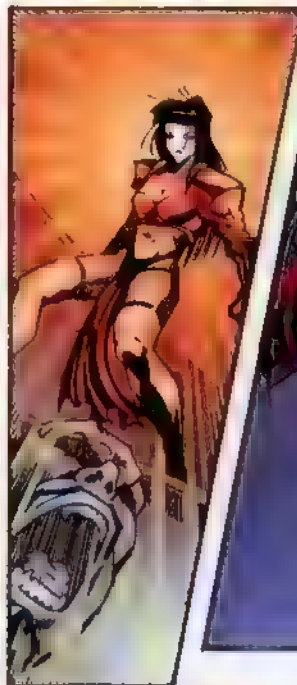
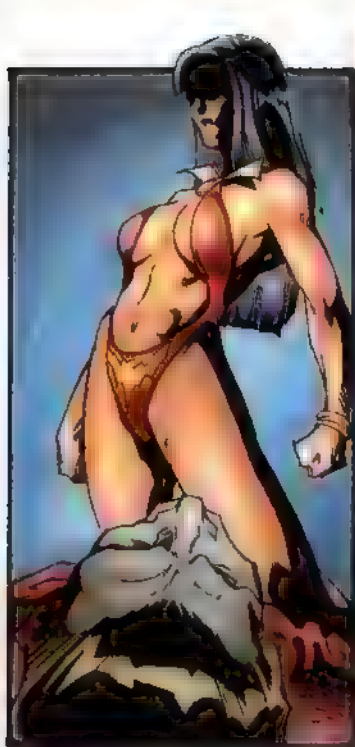


ANA ISHIKAWA SEES THAT  
SHE CAN ACHIEVE SOMETHING  
TONIGHT AFTER ALL.









ANA ISHIKAWA  
IS NAMED "SHI"  
WHEN COSTUMED  
THIS WAY--  
THE JAPANESE  
FOR DEATH.

SHE IS  
NO LONGER  
A KILLER.  
BUT UNDEAD  
ABOMINATIONS  
FROM BEYOND  
THE GRAVE,  
SHE FIGURES,  
DON'T COUNT

QUIT IT.

HELL, YOU'RE  
FAST--

NGH

HSSSSSSSS

DAMN--

GRAAA

HEY--  
GODDAMNIT,  
THAT'S MINE--

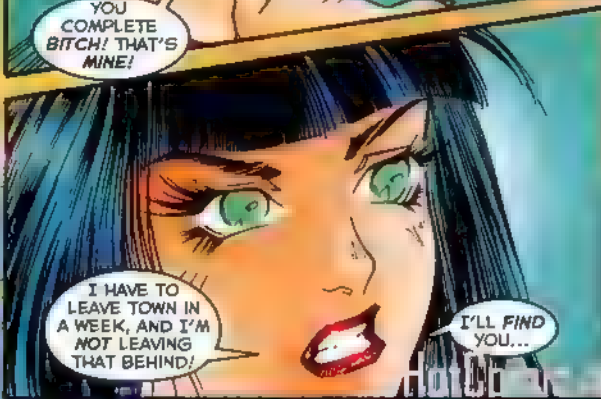


HEY, YOU! I WASN'T GOING TO DRINK YOUR BLOOD! I JUST WANTED YOU TO STOP TRYING TO STAB ME!



WHERE'D YOU GO? SOME PEOPLE, I SWEAR...

YOU COMPLETE BITCH! THAT'S MINE!



I HAVE TO LEAVE TOWN IN A WEEK, AND I'M NOT LEAVING THAT BEHIND!

I'LL FIND YOU...

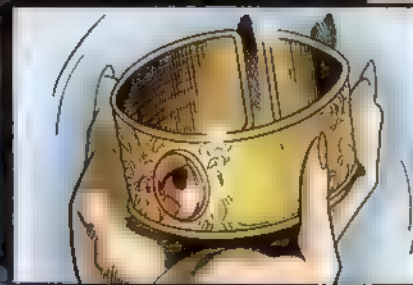


HEY--



IN RASHOMON, WATANABETSUNA CUT OFF THE GHOST'S HAND, AND RAN AWAY WITH IT

'I WILL LEAVE MY HAND WITH YOU FOR SEVEN DAYS, AND I WILL GET IT BACK AFTER THAT,' THE GHOST SHOUTED



ANA ISHIKAWA FEELS LIKE SHE'S BEEN RIPPED OUT OF HER OWN LIFE STORY AND SHOVED INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S BOOK

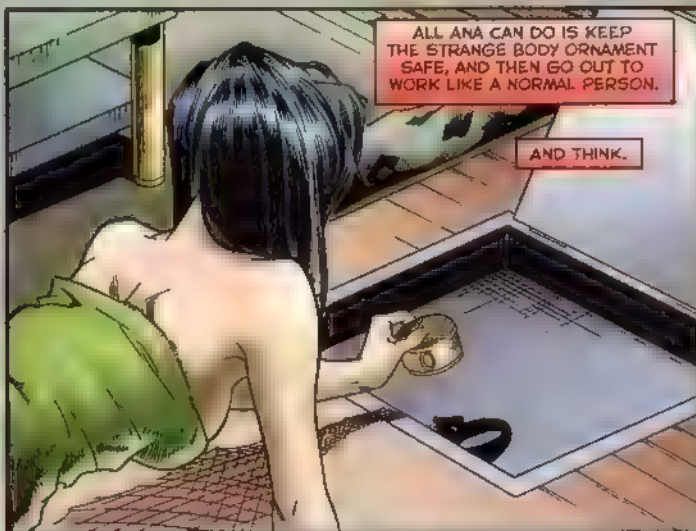


ONE OF THOSE WEIRD, GRUBBY BOOKS YOU SEE ON THE TOP SHELVES OF BOOKSTORES WITH SWEAT ALL OVER THE WALLS.



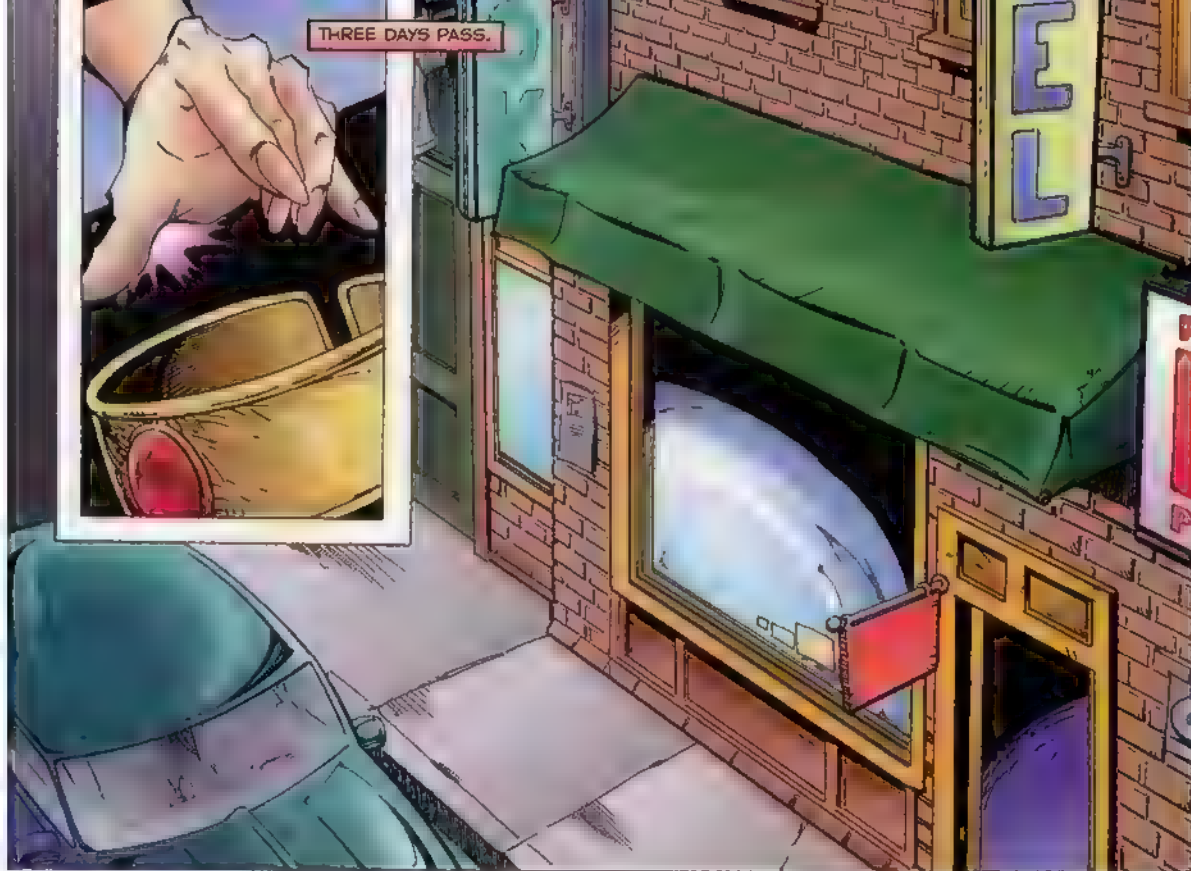
"I HAVE TO LEAVE TOWN IN A WEEK, AND I'M NOT LEAVING THAT BEHIND!"

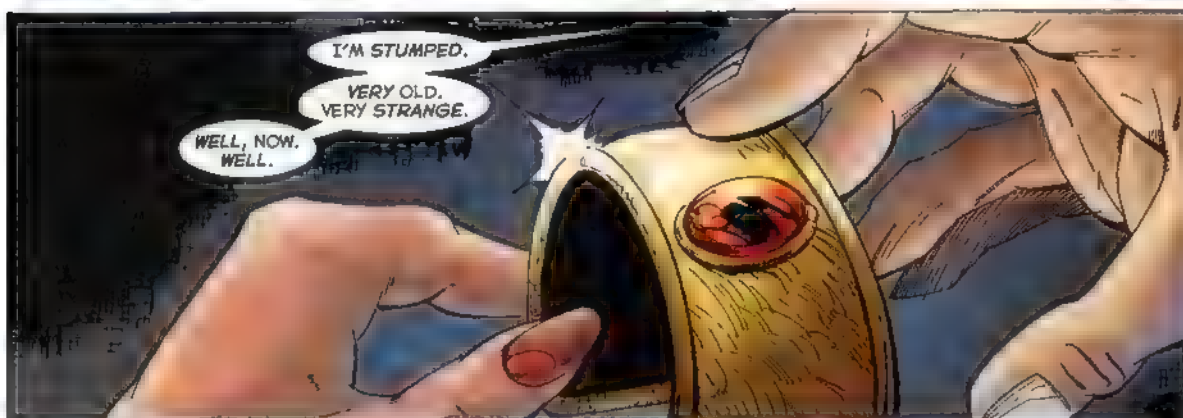
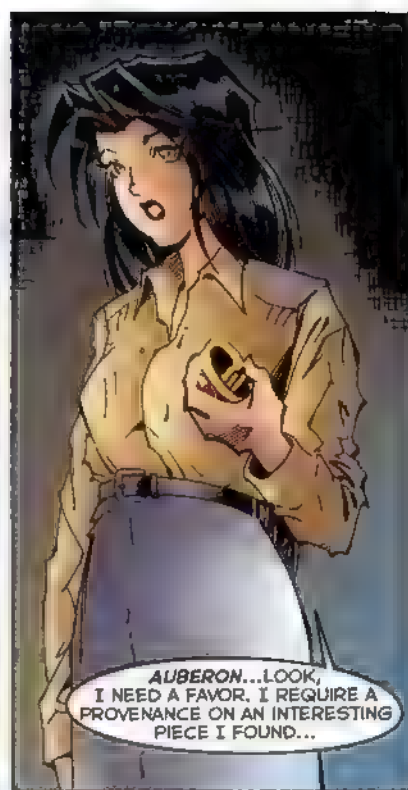
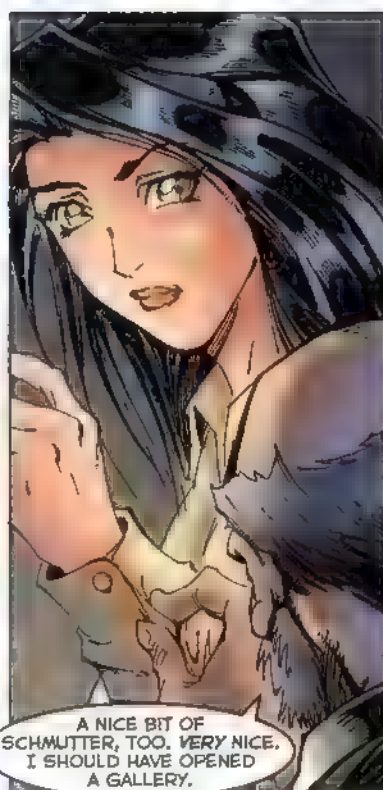
"I'LL FIND YOU..."



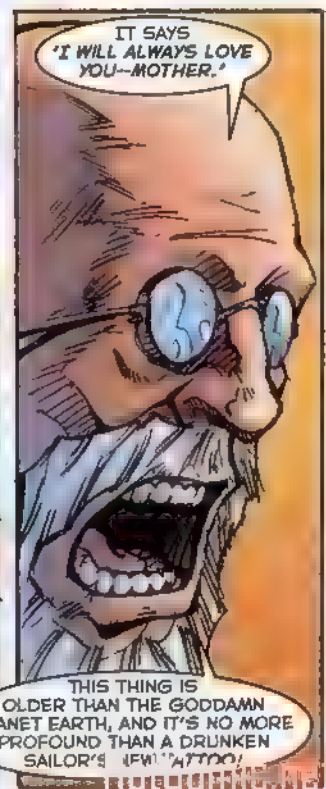
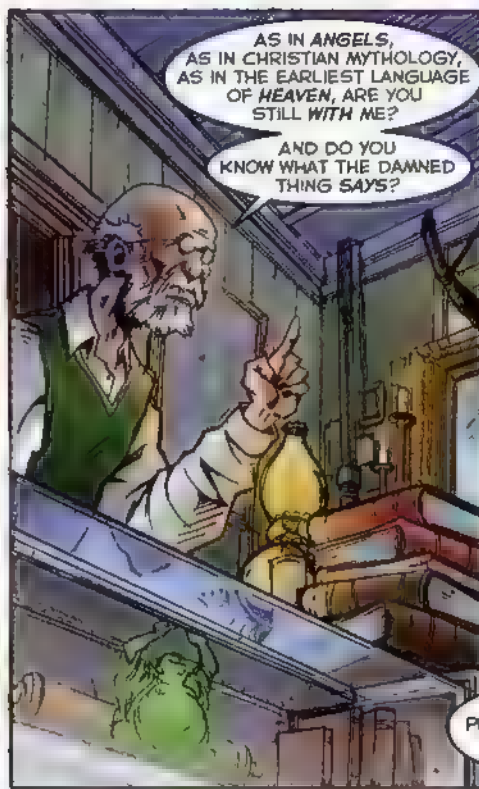
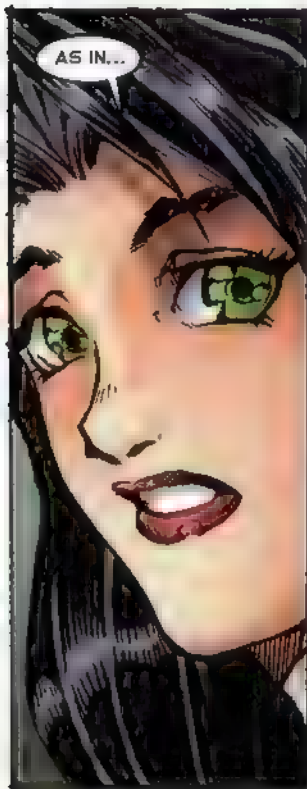
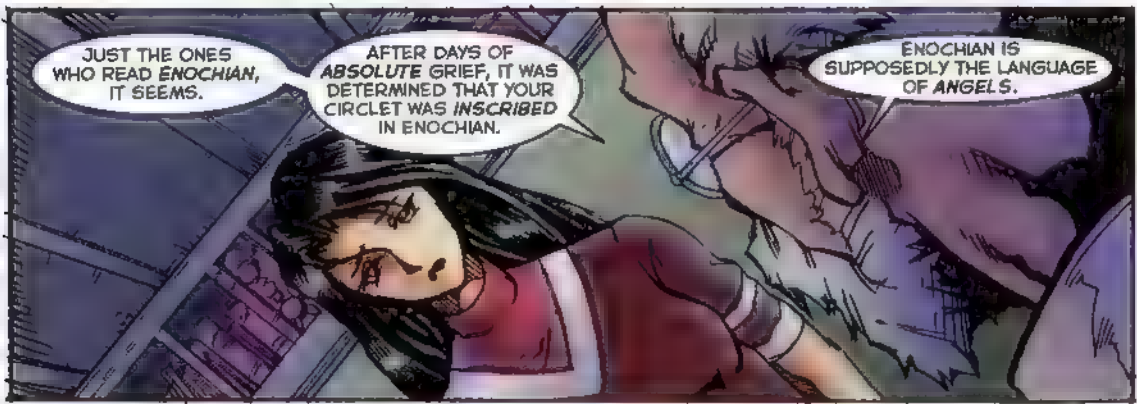
ALL ANA CAN DO IS KEEP THE STRANGE BODY ORNAMENT SAFE, AND THEN GO OUT TO WORK LIKE A NORMAL PERSON.

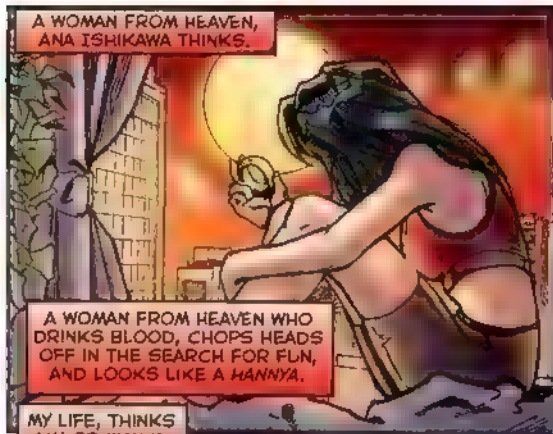
AND THINK.











A WOMAN FROM HEAVEN,  
ANA ISHIKAWA THINKS.

A WOMAN FROM HEAVEN WHO  
DRINKS BLOOD, CHOPS HEADS  
OFF IN THE SEARCH FOR FUN,  
AND LOOKS LIKE A HANNYA.

MY LIFE, THINKS  
ANA ISHIKAWA,  
IS FAR TOO  
COMPLICATED.



ANA?  
YOU HOME?

GIVE ME  
A MINUTE,  
PETER...



PETER, I THINK  
YOU ACTUALLY LOOK  
WORSE THAN YOU DID  
A WEEK AGO.

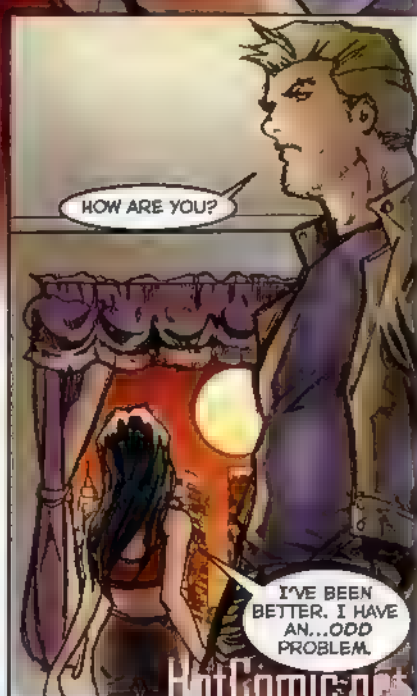
HEY, I'M  
SELF-EMPLOYED NOW.  
I GOTTA WORK THE HOURS  
IT TAKES TO GET THE  
JOB DONE.

CAN I  
COME IN?



OF COURSE.  
SILLY QUESTION.

I LIKE TO  
BE INVITED IN.



HOW ARE YOU?

I'VE BEEN  
BETTER. I HAVE  
AN...ODD  
PROBLEM.

HotComic.net





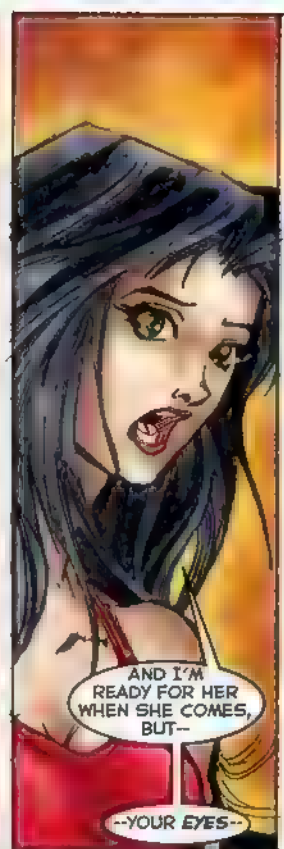
GIVE ME  
IT BACK,  
PETER.



I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT YOU  
THINK YOU'RE DOING, BUT  
THAT STAYS HERE.

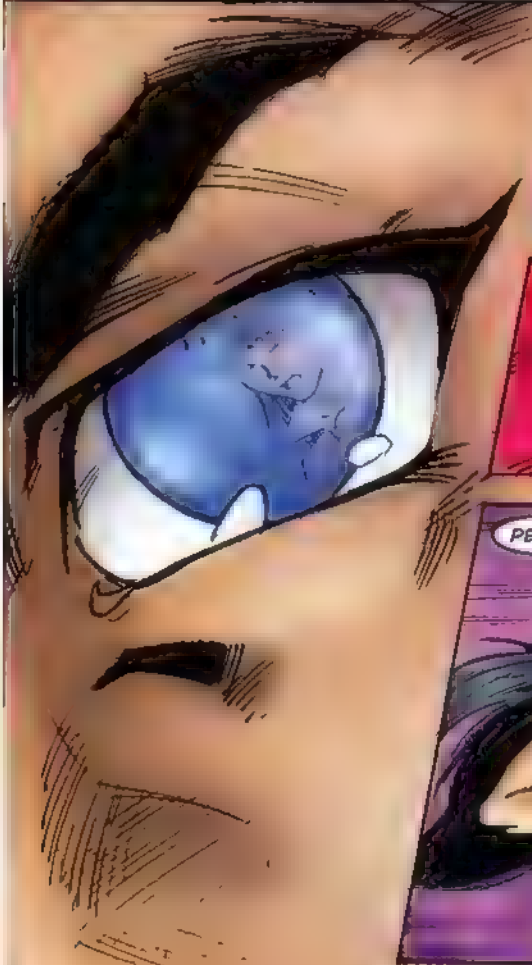


SHE WANTS  
IT BACK, ANA.



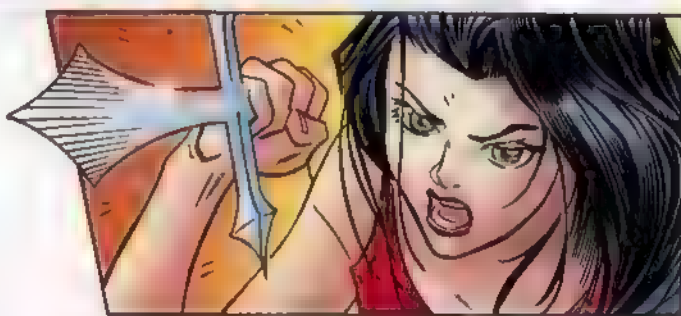
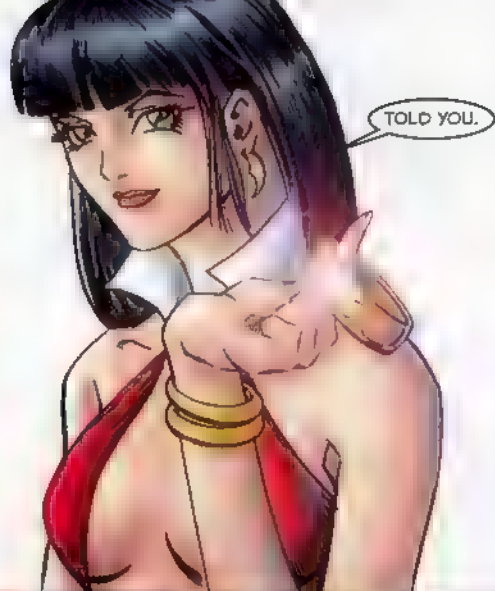
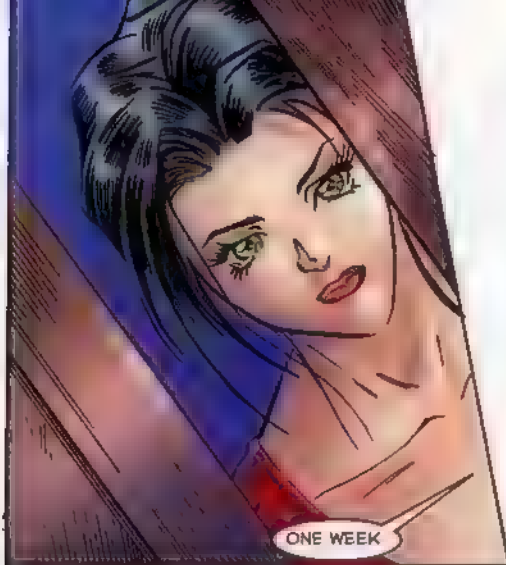
AND I'M  
READY FOR HER  
WHEN SHE COMES,  
BUT--

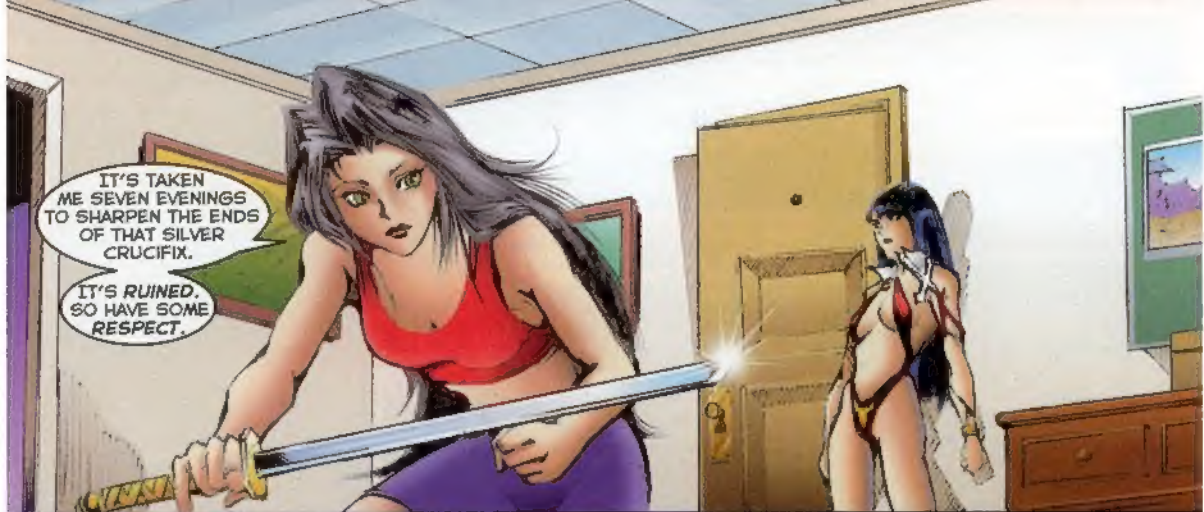
--YOUR EYES--



PETER!

HKKKKKK--

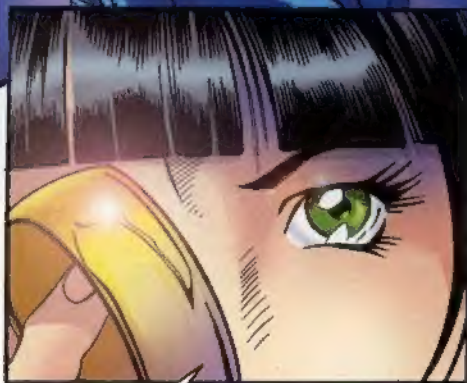




"WHEN GOD SAW THIS, HE CURSED LILITH, KILLING ONE HUNDRED OF HER CHILDREN EACH DAY EVEN AS HE BEGAN TO POPULATE EARTH WITH ADAM AND EVE'S BRATS."

"SO LILITH SENT HER REMAINING CHILDREN TO EARTH, TO TORTURE AND MURDER ADAM AND EVE'S CHILDREN."

"LILITH'S CHILDREN WERE VAMPIRES. SHE WAS MY MOTHER."



IN HER LAST DAYS, LILITH REGRETTED ALL THIS, AND SOUGHT TO MAKE RESTITUTION.

SHE SELECTED HER FAVOURITE DAUGHTER-- THAT'S ME--AND WITH HER DYING BREATH BEGGED ME TO GO TO EARTH AND WIPE MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM THE PLANET.

AND SHE GAVE ME THIS ARMLET; MY MOTHER'S LAST GIFT TO ME.







I'VE GOT  
A LONG WAY  
TO GO.



A LOT  
OF PEOPLE  
TO KILL.



ONE DAY,  
I'LL BE DONE.  
AND THEN--



I'M GOING  
TO COME BACK FOR  
YOU. BECAUSE THAT  
REALLY HURT.

